

Population Trends

From 1910 until the decade of the fifties, the population of the Kerr-Tar Region, as well as Vance County, steadily increased at a rate comparable to the rate experienced by the State of North Carolina and the United States. Vance County, as well as Region K, declined in population during the 1950 to 1960 period. This decline primarily resulted from a reduction in the Region's farm population caused primarily by increased farm mechanization and an increase of job opportunities in the nation's more urbanized areas. Since Vance County contains an urban area, Henderson, its loss of population was not as great as the loss in population experienced in the other counties which comprise Region K. In fact, Vance County began increasing in population during the following 1960 to 1970 census period while Region K continued to lose population at an increased rate. However, in accordance with current population estimates for the 1970 to 1976 period, Region K and Vance County have increased in population by 3.4 percent since 1970. By reviewing Table 1, it is evident that Henderson Township which contains the Henderson urbanized area has been primarily responsible for Vance County's continued increase in population since 1910. In fact, Henderson Township actually exceeded the growth rate experienced by the State of North Carolina from 1910 until 1940. Vance County's remaining townships which are rural in nature have maintained their population from 1910 to 1970 with noteworthy increases or decreases from decade to decade.